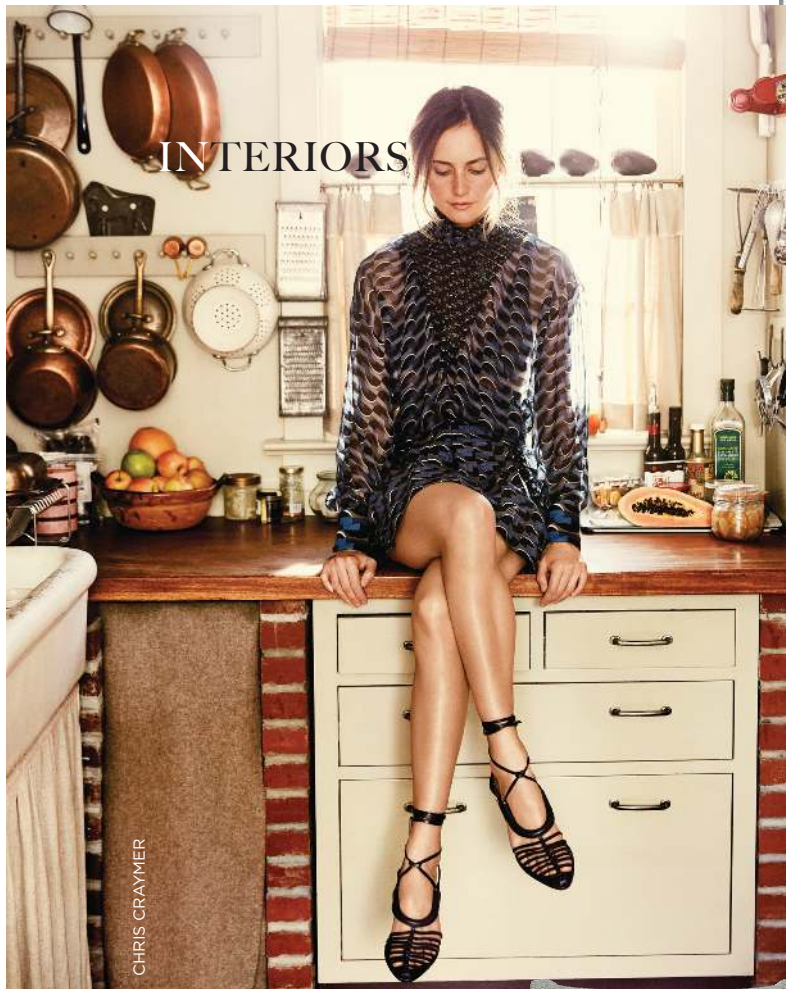


INTERIORS



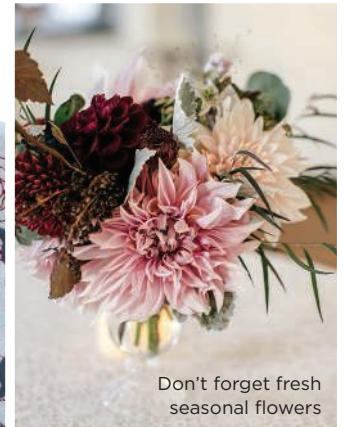
CHRIS CRAYMER



**Good foundations: A SMART SOFA**

This 1950s-inspired velvet-covered Profile sofa (€5,210) is designed by Roberto Tapinassi and Maurizio Manzoni for Roche Bobois, Beacon South Quarter, Dublin 18.

Connie wool rug, Zoe Choy O'Byrne, €2,600; [www.ceadogan.ie](http://www.ceadogan.ie).



Don't forget fresh seasonal flowers

JANUARY

WHAT TO BUY for your house

THIS MONTH ... it's time to take stock. But resist the temptation to replace the old with the cheap new and really work out what you might invest in now: what's fab, what's fresh and what's built to last. If you have been operating with a stop-gap or budget kitchen, January is a good time to plan an upgrade or re-fit, replacing make-do MDF with hardwood cabinetry, a sub-par counter with an enduring stone or marble one, tired flooring with good wood or classic tiles. Take your time when choosing - it could and should be a kitchen you live with (apart from an occasional tweak) for the rest of your life. While you are turning the place upside down, sort out your wiring so you can have atmospheric lighting where you want it: pretty wall sconces and counter-top lamps give a mellow glow. Add personality and softness - the kitchen is a room, after all, not a clinical space - with a beautiful, special rug and at least one upholstered item, whether a small sofa, if you have space, or bar stools for your island. ■



**A future-proof OVEN**

You'll never go wrong with top-of-the-range appliances in a stainless steel finish. Check out Gaggenau's smart ovens at Arena Kitchens, [www.arenakitchens.com](http://www.arenakitchens.com).



Fred bar stool, from €450, at Ventura, Blanchardstown Corporate Park 1, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15.



**Well-crafted windows** bring the outdoors inside. Ensure yours are as smart as they are functional and energy-efficient. [www.fairco.ie](http://www.fairco.ie).

Venere wool-mix cushion, Missoni Home, €192; [www.amara.com](http://www.amara.com).

Naidu reversible wool rug, Gan, from €390, at Minima, Hanover Quay, Dublin 2.

Don't overlook lighting when decorating a room - a statement lamp will take good design up a notch. Orange patterned lamp, €346; [www.hedgeroe.com](http://www.hedgeroe.com).



**Home office: A NEW DESK**

New Year's resolution? Carve out a bit of space for yourself. This minimalist Cupertino wall-mounted office will work hard in any space, €519; [www.boconcept.com](http://www.boconcept.com).

**A forever kitchen** when it comes to designing an elegant kitchen, it doesn't get more classic than using tones of soft greys. [www.newcastledesign.ie](http://www.newcastledesign.ie).



**Timeless ACCENTS:**

Without contrast, a kitchen can feel clinical. Pepper in a few different textures, tones and contrasting materials to add interest. We're inspired by this inviting Miller Brothers X McNally Living custom kitchen. [www.millerbrothers.ie](http://www.millerbrothers.ie); [www.mcnallyliving.ie](http://www.mcnallyliving.ie).



**A hard-wearing kitchen table** inspired by dependable farmhouse trestle tables, the Arundel oak table was designed to last, €2,040; [www.neptune.com](http://www.neptune.com).